



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/202,107	03/08/1999	EIJI MURAMATSU	9319S-000082	2484

7590 06/03/2002

HARNESS DICKEY & PIERCE
PO BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DUNG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/202,107

Applicant(s)

Muramatsu

Examiner

Dung Nguyen

Art Unit

2871



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 25, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 13, 15-21, 23-27, 30, and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 13, 15-21, 23-27, 30, and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 13
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2871

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' preliminary amendment dated 02/25/2002 has been received and entered.

Due to crossed mail, the final office action mailed 02/27/2002 has been withdrawn. An action follows:

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the capacitor locating between the first and the second substrates and connecting to the liquid crystal driving IC must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 13, 15-21 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 2871

Regarding claims 1, 5, 13 and 21, it is confusing and unclear whether the claimed voltage imposed on the liquid crystal (emphasis added) is the same one claimed first voltage or second voltage. Correction to the language is suggested to clarify the claimed subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 13, 14, 17-18, 20-23, 26-27 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brewer, US Patent No. 5,289,301.

The above claims are anticipated by Brewer's figures 1-3 which disclose a display unit comprising:

- . a pair of substrates (2, 3);
- . a plurality of electrodes (4);
- . alignment layers (5);
- . a driving integrated circuit (IC)(10) formed on at least one of the pair of substrates (figure 3) to supply a first voltage to at least one of the plurality electrodes;
- . a variable potentiometer (19 or 22) as claimed, wherein variable potentiometer varies voltage for IC;

Art Unit: 2871

- . a capacitor (figure 8) inherently stabilizing the voltage imposed on the liquid crystal;
- . a first sealant member (8) formed between two substrates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-4, 15-16 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brewer, US Patent No. 5,289,301.

Regarding claims 3-4 and 15, Brewer discloses the claimed invention as described above except for a based material of the resistance (i.e., ITO). One of ordinary skill in the art would have realized desired to form a resistance having a same material as that of electrodes of a display unit. Therefore, it would have obvious to one skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to form the Brewer's resistance having the same material as that of electrodes of the display unit because such process reduces the manufacturing cost of the LCD device since only a single process is needed to form both a resistance and electrodes.

Regarding claim 16, although Brewer do not disclose the resistance can be controlled by a pattern of the resistance, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to control the resistance by a pattern of the resistance since the

Art Unit: 2871

examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalent of changing the resistance value by moving a slide contact (i.e., potentiometer) or laser (i.e., resistance pattern) for their use in the electric circuit art and the selection of any of these known equivalents to adjust the value of the resistance would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

8. Claims 8-9, 19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brewer, US Patent No. 5,289,301, in view of Nonomura et al., US Patent No. 4,385,292 , as stated in the final office action.

Regarding the above claims, Brewer discloses the claimed invention as described above except for a second sealant member formed outboard of the peripheral circuit. Nonomura et al. do disclose a second sealant member (63) can be formed outboard of the driving circuit (see figure 9). Therefore, it would have obvious to one skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the Brewer's unit having a driving IC which disposed on at least one of substrates of the display unit sealed by the second sealant as shown by Nonomura et al. in order to protect a peripheral circuit in a display unit (see col. 9).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0423. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Art Unit: 2871

Any information of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DN
05/28/2002


William L. Sikes
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 2871